

Subject: Support Jordan Lake Rules
From: debbie.j.powell@gsk.com
Date: Mon, 10 Sep 2007 15:04:15 -0400
To: Rich.Gannon@ncmail.net

Dear Members of the Environmental Management Commission:

I have been a resident of Chatham County for over 25 years living close to the banks of the Haw River. During that time I have seen special interests take precedence over what the majority of the county and state residents desire for their communities. I would like to see this change.

My family and I enjoy using Jordan Lake for swimming, boating, paddling, fishing, watersports and other recreation and want it and the Haw River to be clean enough to use safely. Also, I care about the wildlife that depends on a healthy lake, including the large populations of fish, and the nesting birds such as eagles, ospreys, herons, and egrets.

Therefore, I support the proposed rules to reduce nutrient pollution in Jordan Lake. . Jordan Lake has too much algae due to nutrient pollution (nitrogen and phosphorus) that comes from our wastewater and runoff from the whole watershed, including Greensboro, Reidsville, Burlington, Chapel Hill, Pittsboro, and parts of Durham, Wake and Chatham counties. Nearly a million people live in the Jordan Lake/Haw River watershed. Everytime we take a shower, flush the toilet, water the garden, or drive the car we impact the lake. This nutrient pollution has seriously damaged streams in every town in the Haw River watershed, as well as Jordan Lake itself. These new rules will help clean up the water in the Haw River and the creeks where I live, as well as in Jordan Lake.

Jordan Lake and 25 creeks and sections of the Haw River that feed it have become so polluted that they had to be listed on the Federal 'Impaired Waters' list. This listing and an earlier state law, the 1997 Clean Water Responsibility Act, mandate that the lake be cleaned up by reducing nutrients –the nitrogen and phosphorus that have 'overfertilized' the lake. Algae blooms and even fish kills in the lake and upstream show that we're running out of time. And cleanup efforts have already lagged 10 years behind schedule because of disputes over who's responsible and how to get the lake cleaned up.

We're all responsible--the pollution comes from sewage treatment plants and runoff from streets and buildings and farms where we all live..

It is the responsibility of the state to enact these new rules for Jordan Lake. Those of us who live in the watershed share responsibility to make sure the waters we discharge through runoff and wastewater are not polluting others downstream.

We should require that wastewater treatment plants upstream from the lake reduce nitrogen by 2011. The proposed rules would allow water treatment plants to wait until 2016 to make the needed reductions in nitrogen - and that's far too slow. The Lake is already impaired – it can't wait until 2016 for less nitrogen pollution

We need strong rules now, and no more delays. We need to get on with the job of cleaning up Jordan Lake

Sincerely,

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